1 2	3	4
9. Chatra	1,361	3
10. Hazaribagh	1,609	3
11. Kodarma	309	238
12. Giridih	2,263	328
13. Garwa	689	59
14. Palamu	1,876	35
15. Latehar	82	182
16. Ranchi	2,005	10
17. Lohardaga	280	72
18. Gumla	621	140
19. Simdega	601	11
20. East Singhum	1,637	25
21. West Singhum/Saraikela	2,694	133
TOTAL:	26,934	1,664

VRS for group 'C & '0' workers in MTNL

1678. SHRI DATTA MEGHE Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has offered Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to its group 'C and 'D' workers in the years 2004 and 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the voluntary retirement benefits offered to the workers;

(c) the number of workers of MTNL who have so far opted for VRS:

(d) whether MTNL proposes to make VRS more attractive to enable more workers to opt for it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir, MTNL had introduced VRS for its Non-Executive employees in financial year 2004-05.

(b) Details of VRS scheme

(i) The scheme was introduced on 4.12.2004.

(ii) The scheme was closed on 31.01.2005.

(iii) All the eligible employees were relieved from rolls of company *w.e.f.* forenoon of 01.04.2005.

Salient features of VRS-2004

(i) All non executive employees who have completed the age of 40 years or had served MTNL continuously (including the service rendered in DOT) as a regular employee for 20 years were eligible.

(ii) The VR optees were entitled for VR compensation equivalent to 60 days salary (Basic+DA) for each completed year of service or salary for number of years/months left till the date of superannuation, whichever is less.

(iii) In addition all the optees were also entitled for normal retirement benefits as per company rules.

(iv) Medical benefits as per company rules.

(c) Total 2056 number of employees opted for this scheme.

(d) The VR scheme introduced by MTNL was as per DPE guidelines. The terminal benefits offered by MTNL was maximum, permissible under such guidelines.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Waiting-list of telephone connections

1679. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons in the country in the waiting list for telephone connections as on 1st January, 2005;

(b) the number thereof in the rural areas and the urban areas separately;

(c) by when telephone connections are likely to be provided to all persons in the waiting list;

(d) whether it is proposed to give Wireless in Local Loop (W.L.L.) telephone connections in rural areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and